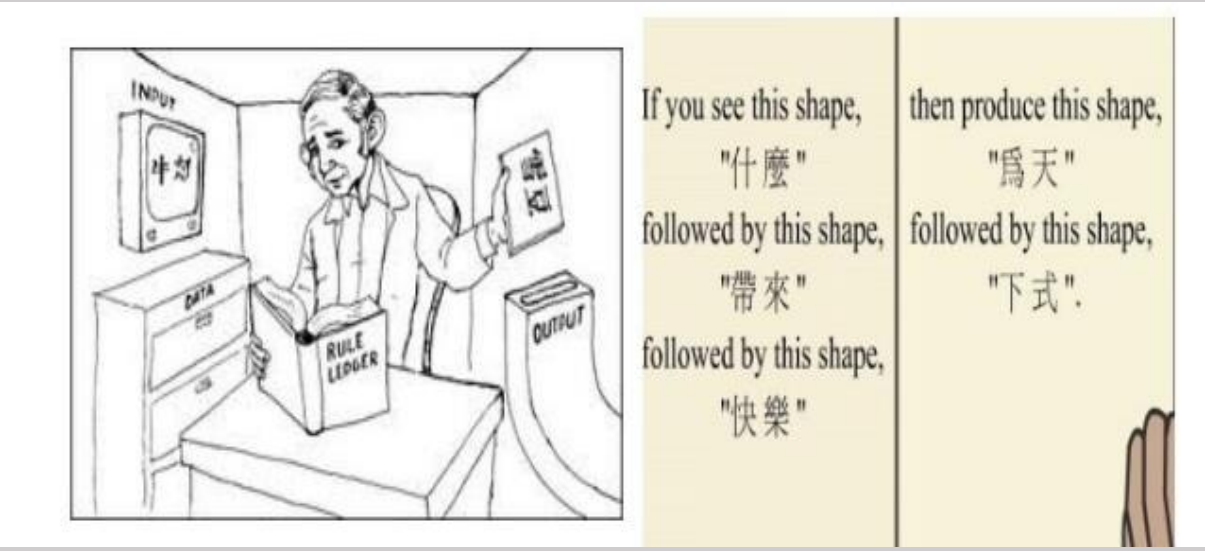
The Chinese room argument

John Searle



Is implementation of the right sort of program – whether in a computer, a sophisticated robot, or a human being - sufficient for genuine intelligence?

Chinese room, Chinese **symbols** and an English **rulebook**

Turing Test and intelligence

If the machine's performance was indistinguishable from that of the human being - then, Turing suggested, the machine could be regarded as having exhibited real intelligence

Searle, in his Chinese room, has passed the Turing test for understanding of Chinese.

he has done so by doing what a computer program does, namely, manipulating symbols in accordance with an algorithmic procedure to which only the symbols' physical properties (in this case their shape), and not their meanings, are relevant: he is, in effect, "running the program" for competence in the Chinese language

So, **according to Searle, human intelligence just isn't what the CRTT says it is**: it is not the implementation of a kind of computer software

System's reply in favour of CRTT: Searle himself could serve just as the entire system of 'Chinese room' - yet he still doesn't understand a word of Chinese.

The **gradual learning process** by both man and machine.

Searle's reply to systems reply: even if such an account is correct, the reply to his argument just sketched essentially **concedes its main point**, namely, that running a program is by itself insufficient for understanding.

Multitasking and MPD

According to **Fodor,** CRTT is **NOT a theory of understanding** in the first place.